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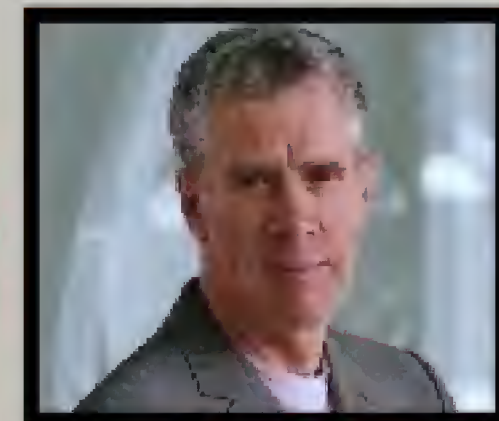
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Winnipeg metro

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TRANSIT TRAGEDY

THE CANADIAN PRESS



TIME FOR CHANGE

Local union calls for special transit police following stabbing
metroNEWS

+Police charge 22-year-old in Irvine Fraser's murder metroNEWS

Telecom takeover

TECHNOLOGY

Bell clears last hurdle in \$3.9B deal to buy service provider

A Vancouver-based consumer group is warning that a new MTS-Bell deal will hurt Manitoba.

BCE Inc. cleared its final regulatory hurdle Wednesday to acquire Manitoba Telecom Services Inc., but it will have to transfer thousands of customers to another company to maintain competition in the province's telecom sector.

The Competition Bureau and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada gave the green light to the \$3.9-billion deal, which had already been approved by MTS shareholders. The deal, first announced last May, is set to close March 17.

A top executive at Bell said Wednesday the deal will maintain competition and also lead

to improved service, because Bell has promised to invest \$1 billion over five years to improve Internet and wireless speeds and coverage in Manitoba.

"Internet services in Manitoba are 20 times slower than they are in the other parts of the country where Bell operates," said Mirko Bibic, an executive vice-president and Bell's chief legal and regulatory officer.

"Same thing with wireless services. The Bell networks are the fastest in North America."

There is no guarantee prices will not rise. Bell would only commit Wednesday to maintaining current MTS wireless plan prices for 12 months after the deal closes.

David Christopher, spokesman for the Vancouver-based OpenMedia, said in a written statement the acquisition will harm Manitoba.

"While consumers and businesses are crying out for lower costs and more competition, our wireless market is moving in the opposite direction," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Disabled pup needs wheelchair

COMPASSION

Dog rescue seeks funds for assistive aids, vet care bills

Cats are typically the pets with nine lives, but one Manitoba puppy is doggedly determined enough to live through a paralyzing car accident and blindness.

Gizzy, a nine-month-old pup, is still standing — albeit on three legs — after a car struck him in a remote northern Manitoba community last month.

Someone found the dog on the side of the road, dragging himself on his two front legs, and contacted a dog rescue group.

"He already had infections on his belly and legs," said Colleen Holloway, a volunteer spokesperson for Manitoba Mutts. "We're guessing, based on that, he had been dragging himself around for at least two

or three days. And this was at the end of January."

Manitoba Mutts took Gizzy to the Fort Garry Veterinary Hospital in Winnipeg, where veterinarians found they had to amputate one of his hind legs, as it was shattered beyond repair.

He's unable to use his other back leg (although the vets are not sure why), but he may eventually learn to stand on it.

There's more to this tale: During the surgery, Gizzy suffered a heart attack that left him blind.

Now Manitoba Mutts is fundraising for a specialized wheelchair — complete with a "halo" — so Gizzy can drag himself around without bumping into any

walls.

"He's defied so many odds that we have to give him the chance," said Holloway, noting that rescues carefully weigh the financial costs of rehabilitating a dog against the animal's ability to live a pain-free life.

"We are at the stage right now, with Gizzy, that we are



Gizzy, a nine-week-old puppy, has been left paralyzed and blind after he was hit by a car in northern Manitoba. CONTRIBUTED

going to keep pushing with him," she said.

"We're confident in the professional advice in the veterinary hospital. We are seeing, in him, a will and a desire to keep going."

A wheelchair costs up to \$600 — and Manitoba Mutts may have to buy two sizes,

depending on how big Gizzy grows. That's on top of the \$3,000 vet bill for the surgery and weekly physiotherapy bills, said Holloway.

She said he'll need three months of rehab before he can be put up for adoption. Currently, the clinic is footing everyday costs for care

and a vet technician is bringing Gizzy home every night because he requires around-the-clock care.

Manitoba Mutts has set the ambitious goal of raising \$6,000 for Gizzy's wheelchair costs.

You can donate at www.manitobamutts.org. METRO

INVESTIGATION

Officers hit with traffic charges

Two police officers from southwestern Manitoba are facing charges related to the transport of a man to the Brandon Correctional Centre.

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba says one officer has been charged with careless driving and the second is charged with driving imprudently.

The civilian director of the unit that investigates police actions determined there were reasonable grounds to believe provincial highway laws may have been broken.

Last September, an officer was escorting an intoxicated man to the correctional centre when the man was cut over his left eye after hitting his head inside the police car.

That car was also hit from behind by another police vehicle.

Both officers are to appear in Brandon provincial court on April 6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Councillor steps down after letter made public

POLICE BOARD

Browaty 'didn't have an option' but to resign as chairperson



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Coun. Jeff Browaty says he's disappointed a letter calling for his removal from the Winnipeg Police Board was publicized.

The North Kildonan councillor addressed reporters on Wednesday following his return from a trip to the U.S. — where he was attending to city business — and resignation as chairman of the board.

Browaty announced he was stepping down after the police board gave Mayor Brian Bowman a letter asking for his removal after concerns were raised by the board's Indigenous advisory council.

Council co-chair Shauna Fontaine said Browaty's questioning about the cost of training civic employees on the legacy of Indian residential schools was problematic, as were comments he made afterwards that she believes demonstrated his lack of understanding on Indigenous issues.

Browaty explained he felt surprised and blindsided by the concerns of Fontaine's council.



Councillor Jeff Browaty announced he's stepping down as chairman of the police board. METRO

"I expressed my desire to go and learn, to understand those items, as an elected official I should probably have a better grasp."

He said the police board's letter to the mayor should have

remained private — at least in the short term — but instead it was released publicly on the same day it was delivered, all while he was out of town.

Browaty believes that direction to publish the letter came

from Bowman's office.

"In my mind, because the letter was released at his coaxing, if you will, at [Bowman's] direction ... I felt because it was a unanimous letter from the police board I didn't have

"I would have appreciated the opportunity to have a face-to-face discussion with the police board on the matter."

Coun. Jeff Browaty

an option," he said of his decision to resign.

"I would have appreciated the opportunity to have a face-to-face discussion with the police board on the matter."

Bowman told reporters it was the board's decision to publish the letter, saying only that he made it clear to members that if they wanted Browaty gone, they would be held accountable.

"I was not willing to remove him based on back-room dealings," he said.

The search for the new police board chair is underway.

Bowman said he's not rushing into any decision, and indicated no timeline for when an appointment would be made.

The mayor's office says he can nominate either a councillor or a citizen to take the post as chair. Bowman could also chair meetings himself.

The police board's next meeting is in March.

ALLEGATIONS

Council to vote on probe

What happened? That's the question at the core of Mayor Brian Bowman's call for a provincial inquiry into the goings-on at city hall — a call he made following allegations of payoffs around the redevelopment of Winnipeg's new police headquarters.

On Wednesday, Bowman's inner circle unanimously approved his formal request, which council will vote on next week.

After that, the ball is in the province's court to decide if, and when, such a public probe would happen.

Bowman is requesting the inquiry be a "broad systemic examination" of the conduct of all city employees, senior and elected officials, as well as third parties under the former administration.

He believes the probe is necessary because the ongoing police probe into the redevelopment of the police headquarters isn't broad enough to address concerns about the overall decision-making that went down at city hall.

In 2014, the RCMP launched an investigation into allegations Caspian Construction was fraudulently invoicing. The company had been hired to turn 245 Smith St., a former warehouse, into the new home of the city's police department. Court documents also show that investigators allege Caspian paid former CAO Phil Sheegl \$200,000 for helping them land the job.

Investigators allege that Sheegl then shared half that money with former mayor Sam Katz.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

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TRANSIT TRAGEDY

SAFETY

Union boss in demand for action after 'wake-up call'

The mayor said it, the police chief said it, and the president of the transit union agrees: "There's a lot more that could be done" to improve safety on Winnipeg Transit buses.

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1505 President John Callahan lamented Wednesday that he's brought up the safety issue "time and time again."

He said he hits on familiar points "any time there's an assault," but this week's fatal stabbing of a city bus driver — the first time an operator has been murdered on the job — is something else entirely.

It was a "tragedy," Callahan says. He doesn't want it to be a wake-up call, but "it is."

Brian Kyle Thomas, 22, has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of 58-year-old bus driver Irvine Fraser.

Callahan said he's glad to have the city and police — two critical stakeholders — at the table and to help him usher in safety changes.

Some of those changes will require ongoing co-operation,

planning, and resources, but he believes there are "common sense" ways to prevent this from happening again.

"We want to look at quick fixes (such as) just implementing some education for the public, to the ridership," Callahan said.

“

We think there's a way to do that without breaking the bank.

John Callahan

Although Tuesday morning's assault was obviously very severe, Callahan said many disputes unfold similarly, and "a lot of the assaults are the result of poor communication or not understanding a policy."

"It starts as a simple verbal dispute but can quickly escalate into a physical altercation," he said.

Whether it's exiting a bus at the end of the line, or waiting for the third bus in a row of back-

logged buses to pull up to the stop before boarding, Callahan said transit policies are either not well known or they're "very unclear."

Buses are equipped with cameras, emergency buttons that connect drivers to 911 instantly, and, since 61 driver assaults in 2015 sparked a safety discussion, cadets, uniformed or undercover police officers.

Callahan said there have been nearly three dozen reports of plain-clothed officers "intervening in situations that were escalating since that (initiative) was implemented."

He thinks better communicating to the public that these officers are out there could help, but so could increasing the frequency of the enforcement by hiring "some dedicated transit police officers."

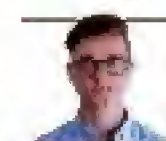
"We think there's a way to do that without breaking the bank," Callahan said, adding the union plans to discuss that idea and others with the city and cops to make changes.

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

Man charged in stabbing of driver

CRIME

Argument led to a physical altercation, say police



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Security camera footage and witness accounts have given Winnipeg police a clearer picture of what led to the fatal stabbing of a city bus driver early Tuesday morning.

The investigation to date has resulted in second-degree murder charges against Brian Kyle Thomas, a 22-year-old Winnipegger who has had previous police involvement. Initial information released following the Feb. 14 murder of Winnipeg Transit operator Irvine Jubal Fraser stated the driver was alone with one passenger when he reached the end of his route shortly before 2 a.m. Not long after, he was mortally wounded and police arrested a male suspect nearby.

On Wednesday, Winnipeg Police spokesperson Const. Jason Michalyshen filled in some of the blanks.

He told reporters that after Fraser stopped his bus on the University of Manitoba campus, he advised the lone occupant, allegedly Thomas, they had reached the end of the line.



A blood-soaked sidewalk remains as police investigate the fatal stabbing of a bus driver. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

At that time, the suspect, who had been "somewhere near the back" of the bus, went to the front and "indicated he did not wish to exit."

Things escalated from that point, as Thomas was "obviously confrontational," according to police.

"After repeated requests by Fraser, the occupant was escorted off," Michalyshen said.

He described this part of the interaction as a "gentle way of taking hold of the individual and escorting him off the bus," adding the passenger's persistent refusal to comply and confrontational reaction escalated the situation until it "erupted."

"A verbal argument continued, resulting in a physical altercation outside the bus, when a knife was produced and Fraser was stabbed multiple times in the upper body."

He said Fraser collapsed, and the suspect fled on foot. Michalyshen explained much

of that account "has been obtained through (security camera) video," but that police have also "spoken to a number of witnesses that were in the area."

Members of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) canine unit were also nearby, and responded within minutes as multiple 911 calls flagged the altercation as a significant weapon incident.

Witnesses pointed officers in the direction the apparent assailant had fled in, and soon police arrested someone on the frozen Red River. Meanwhile, first responders attended to Fraser's stab wounds and he was rushed to the hospital.

"Sadly, even due to the efforts of emergency personnel, he couldn't be saved," Michalyshen said.

The investigation is ongoing as homicide detectives and the WPS forensics team continue to review the incident.

"This is just day two," Michalyshen said.



Notice of Community Consultation

NAV CANADA proposes airspace improvements for Winnipeg International Airport

NAV CANADA is seeking public input on proposed changes to aircraft arrival and departure procedures at Winnipeg James Richardson International Airport.

Updates to standard arrival routes as well as the implementation of new technologies are planned as part of the proposal. The proposed flight paths are estimated to save up to three minutes flying time for arrivals, with greenhouse gas emissions reductions estimated at 800 metric tonnes each year.

Required Navigation Performance (RNP) is a new navigation technology that combines satellite-based positioning with modern flight management systems, allowing an aircraft to fly a precise route. This allows for the design of flight paths that are shorter and that provide for a continuous descent. Initially, only a small portion of aircraft — approximately 20 per cent — will be equipped to fly the new procedure.

Proposed updates to departure procedures will allow for the use of satellite navigation while following the same initial departure headings used today.

NAV CANADA has made information, including maps, on proposed flight path changes available online at navcanada.ca/YWG. Residents are invited to learn about changes and provide feedback by April 2, 2017 using the comment tool available on the website.

Residents of Winnipeg and surrounding communities can also attend any of the following drop-in Open House Consultation Events:

March 8, 2017 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Headingley Community Centre
5353 Portage Ave
Headingley, MB
R4H 1J9

March 18, 2017 – 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Four Points by Sheraton Winnipeg South
2935 Pembina Highway
Winnipeg, MB
R3T 2H5

March 9, 2017 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Valley Gardens Community Centre
218 Antrim Rd
Winnipeg, MB
R2K 3L2

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Liberals strongly backing anti-Islamophobia bill

PARLIAMENT

Motion calls for action against 'climate of hate and fear'

The Liberal government is coming out strongly in favour of a motion to condemn Islamophobia and all other forms of racism and religious discrimination.

Heritage Minister Melanie Joly said passing the non-binding motion would send a strong message about discrimination against the Muslim community, particularly in light of the recent deadly attack on a mosque in Quebec City.

"We overwhelmingly reject the politics of racism and exclusion," Joly said Wednesday outside the House of Commons.

She was surrounded by Liberal MPs — including several cabinet ministers — as a strong show of support, and a signal of her confidence that despite this



Member of Parliament Iqra Khalid is congratulated by colleagues as she makes an announcement about an anti-Islamophobia motion on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. PATRICK DOYLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

being a free vote, there would not be anyone in the Liberal caucus who is expected to stand against it.

"Our government is committed to building a diverse, inclusive and welcoming society that promotes respect for all, regardless of faith, race or ethnicity."

The private member's motion, put forward by Liberal MP Iqra Khalid, calls on the government to "recognize the need

to quell the increasing public climate of hate and fear" and condemn Islamophobia, as well as all other kinds of "systemic racism and religious discrimination."

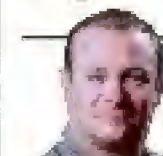
The Commons heritage committee would also be asked to study the issue and develop a strategy to tackle it.

A number of Conservative MPs have called for the motion to be more inclusive, warning it

I along with some of my colleagues, have been the recipients of hateful comments. This strengthens my resolve to continue to combat this issue.
MP Iqra Khalid

BRITISH COLUMBIA

'Hot tea' lawsuit against Starbucks fails



David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Remember the 1994 "hot coffee" lawsuit that saw a U.S. jury order McDonald's to pay a coffee-burn victim \$2.86 million in damages?

Turns out Starbucks could have had its own "hot tea" moment in Canada — except in the Sechelt, British Columbia case, a provincial court judge tossed out a local woman's lawsuit that had steeped for 17 months.

On Feb. 1, judge Steven Mer-

rick dismissed a tea-burn lawsuit filed by Shayla Williams, who received second- and third-degree burns to her "left thigh and gluteal area," she testified, after "the lid popped off" a cup of tea she'd ordered from a Starbucks drive-through — served at 86C, the company testified.

"Understandably, Ms. Williams was in significant pain," Merrick ruled. "Despite my sympathy for the claimant who clearly suffered extremely painful burns, it is my judgment that she has not proven her case against the defendant."

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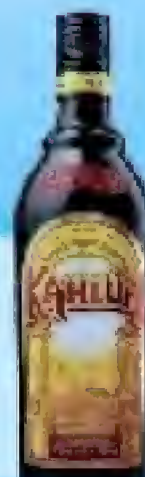
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Immigrants in U.S. vow to disappear — for a day

ACTIVISM!

Part of massive cross-country action to show their value

Organizers in cities across the U.S. are telling immigrants to miss class, miss work and not shop on Thursday as a way to show the country how important they are to America's economy and way of life.

"A Day Without Immigrants" actions are planned in cities including Philadelphia, Washington, Boston and Austin, Texas.

The protest comes in response to President Donald Trump and his month-old administration.

Employers and institutions in some cities were already expressing solidarity Wednesday.

Washington restaurateur John Andrade said he would close his businesses Thursday, and David Suro, owner of Tequilas Restaurant in Philadelphia and a Mexican immigrant, said he also

planned to participate.

The Davis Museum at Wellesley College in Massachusetts said it would remove or shroud all artwork created or given by immigrants to the museum.

In New Mexico, the state with the largest percentage of Hispanics, school officials worried that hundreds of students may stay home on Thursday.

"Students need to be in class every day to benefit from the education they are guaranteed and to avoid falling behind in school and life," principals with the Albuquerque Public Schools wrote in a letter to parents. Students who take part in the protest will receive an unexcused absence, officials said.

Organizers in Philadelphia expect hundreds of workers and families to participate.

"Our goal is to highlight the need for Philadelphia to expand policies that stop criminalizing communities of colour," said Erika Almiron, executive director of Juntos, a non-profit that works with the Latino immigrant community. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Protesters gather in Milwaukee, Wisc. to rally against President Donald Trump's policy on immigration. Organizers are telling immigrants to skip class, miss work and not shop Thursday. GERRY

LABOUR

American workers enter a 'dark period'

A review of the U.S. Department of Labor's website revealed that multiple posts about protecting precarious workers, enforcing labour laws, and cracking down on wage theft have vanished.

"If we have been living in an overcast period for working people in the U.S., we are about to enter into a dark, dark period," said California-based workers' rights advocate Carmen Rojas.

There are notable disappearances, including an executive order that lifted the minimum wage of federal contractors to

\$10.10 an hour — a move that provided an estimated 200,000 low-wage workers with a raise. Numerous links to Department of Labor blog posts also appeared to be broken, specifically on issues related to wage theft, enforcement, and employee misclassification — the practice of wrongly classifying workers as independent contractors to avoid legal obligations like paying minimum wage.

All three areas were championed under Obama in an effort to better protect vulnerable workers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ISRAEL

Trump charts new course for Middle East

President Donald Trump on Wednesday withheld clear support for an independent Palestine and declared he could endorse a one-nation solution to the long and deep dispute between Palestinians and Israel.

The American president, signalling a new era of comity between the U.S. and Israel after rocky relations under President

Barack Obama, said he was more interested in an agreement that leads to peace than in any particular path to get there.

While Trump urged Netanyahu to "hold off" on Jewish settlement construction in territory the Palestinians claim for their future state, he offered unwavering support for Israel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada, European Union see trade deal as victory

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Trudeau to address EU Parliament on Thursday

Lawmakers in Canada and Europe are hailing Wednesday's approval of the Canada-EU free trade deal by the European Parliament as a win for the values of openness in the face of anti-trade movements, including the Donald Trump administration in the United States.

The legislature in Strasbourg, France, approved the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement by a margin of 408-254, with 33 abstentions. The vote clears a major hurdle for the deal that saw its first round of bargaining almost eight years ago and has had to overcome mounting anti-trade populism in Europe.

Canada's Parliament also is expected to ratify the deal in the coming months, which means



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sets off on a trip to address the European Parliament. ADRIAN WYLD / THE CANADIAN PRESS

90 per cent of it would come into force under provisional application.

That key procedural step allows the deal to take effect without the ratification of the European Union's 28 member countries and numerous regional governments.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was en route to France to deliver his own pro-trade message in an address Thursday to the European Parliament, a first for a Can-

adian leader, and to top business leaders a day later in Germany.

On his way into a caucus meeting earlier Wednesday, Trudeau sang the praises of the deal as evidence of the merits of globalization.

"I think it's an illustration that when you put forward a progressive trade deal that takes into account the responsibility of governments to create good middle-class jobs, create inclusive growth — not just for a few, but

for everyone — (and) that focuses on the middle class, we can move forward on globalization."

International Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne, who was already in Strasbourg ahead of the vote, called it "the right deal at the right time."

"Good for workers, consumers and a new standard for trade."

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom took direct aim at anti-globalization forces in remarks to Parliament, in what appeared to be a thinly veiled rebuttal to Trump's protectionist and anti-immigration policies.

"With Canada we share the democratic values of tolerance and openness. We co-operate in tackling common challenges such as migration, sustainable development, climate change and terrorism," Malmstrom said.

The Conference Board of Canada called the agreement good for both sides, since economic history demonstrates that greater free movement of goods, services and people is a catalyst for economic growth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDIA

Google calls plan 'tax on advertisers'

Proposals for tax changes aimed at helping Canadian publishers fight for revenues with online news aggregators would result in a punitive "tax on advertisers," executives from Google Canada and Facebook Canada told a Commons committee studying the country's media industry.

That's because tax laws currently on the books designed to prop up the industry are archaic and simply don't apply to the Internet age, Jason Kee, Google Canada's head of policy and government relations, told the heritage committee Tuesday.

Kee said he had concerns over how such changes would be implemented.

"Long story short, it's essentially a tax on Canadian advertisers," he said.

A report by former journalist Edward Greenspon, commissioned by the Department of Heritage and unveiled late last month, called on Ottawa to consider changing tax laws to favour Canadian news publishers in the digital advertising market and use the new revenue stream to establish an independent, publicly subsidized journalism fund.

The independent think-tank Public Policy Forum recommended that advertising with foreign-owned websites no longer be deductible under the federal Income Tax Act.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Check your Yahoo account

Yahoo is warning users of potentially malicious activity on their accounts between 2015 and 2016, the latest development in the company's probe of a mega-breach that exposed

1 billion users' data several years ago.

Yahoo confirmed Wednesday that it was notifying users that their accounts had potentially been compromised.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON DRESS CODES



Philosopher rethinks position in wake of Quebec mosque attack

Almost a decade ago, Montreal philosopher Charles Taylor — one of Canada's leading intellectuals — co-chaired over a provincial commission on religious accommodation that recommended, among other measures, that Quebec impose a secular dress code on the province's judges and police forces.

In so doing, he and historian/sociologist Gérard Bouchard inadvertently planted the seeds of Quebec's decade-long fixation on religious vestments in general and the Muslim veil in particular.

Some of those seeds eventually found their way elsewhere in Canada, most notably in the shape of the debate on the place of the niqab at citizenship ceremonies at the time of the last federal election.

The Bouchard-Taylor report was more than 300 pages long and most of its recommendations dealt with measures designed to nurture a pluralistic society. But it was the notion of a government-imposed ban on religious signs that stuck with the public.

The imprimatur of two leading thinkers freed part of Quebec's chattering and political classes to jump on the dress code bandwagon and advocate restrictions on individual religious expression that would have been unthinkable prior to the report.

Taylor and Bouchard pre-

scribed a ban on religious signs for people invested, by virtue of their positions, with coercive powers. In the rhetoric of the Coalition Avenir Québec and the Parti Québécois, that came to mean anyone in a position of authority. And even that term soon lost any semblance of meaning.

In the PQ's defunct secularism charter, a secular dress code would have been imposed on anyone on the public payroll, from clerks to nurses to doctors to child-care workers.

Neither academic had such blanket restrictions in mind when they wrote their report. On various occasions, both tried to set the record straight.

Now Taylor has gone a step further: In an op-ed piece published in *La Presse* earlier this week, he urged Quebec's political class to put back in the bottle the genie he and Bouchard let out.

In hindsight, he wrote, he wishes he had left the bottle uncorked.

Taylor says he never did believe that a prohibition on religious signs, be it on those who sit on the court benches or wear a police uniform, was necessarily in keeping with Quebec's secular character.

In his op-ed, it comes across as little more than a bone thrown to the many Quebecers who felt their identity was threatened by expressions of religious diversity. The proposal

had more to do with marketing than actual values.

Taylor writes that he thought the recommendation would help a majority of Quebecers buy in to the more positive prescriptions of the report.

The opposite, of course, happened. Even with the best of intentions, opportunism is not a substitute for principles.

Taylor also predicts that should the national assembly ever put the restrictions on religious signs he once advocated into law, the courts would



Charles Taylor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

throw them out.

That, too, is a bit of a stunning admission.

Over the past decade, there has not been in Canada a substantial court ruling that would affirm or affirm Taylor's doubts as to the legal standing of the proposal he is recanting. In other words, if he believes it would probably not survive a charter challenge now, he would have had cause to suspect as much at the time of the writing of the report.

Taylor said it was the attack on a Quebec mosque two

weeks ago that prompted his public reversal. In the aftermath of that attack, the parties in the national assembly essentially resumed the debate over religious accommodation where they had left off.

Arguing that a majority of Quebecers back the dress code restrictions of the Bouchard-Taylor report, the opposition parties have been pressuring the Liberal government to pass them into law.

Taylor believes that the public goodwill that has resulted from the mosque tragedy will be squandered if Quebec's political class does not switch its focus from debating how far to restrict the rights of religious minorities to the building of more bridges with the Muslim community.

Predictably, since he reversed his position, Taylor has been vilified on social media. Some have called him a Liberal sellout; others accuse him of being a fundamentalist.

It took courage for Taylor to repudiate a notion that has driven Quebec's identity debate for the best part of a decade. Still one cannot help but regret that he did not exhibit that courage nine years ago, at the time of the co-writing of the report that bears his name.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in *Metro* every Thursday.

Reality TV gets real



Vicky Mochama
Metro

After 13 seasons of ignoring it, I am now a massive fan of television's longest-running arranged marriage scheme, *The Bachelorette*. This is because the newest bachelorette is Rachel Lindsay, a black female attorney.

It doesn't even air until May 22 and I can conclusively say it is the best show on television. And not only did ABC announce this during Black History Month, but — it can't be coincidence — the new season also premieres on my birthday. Fate has foretold the greatness of this show.

Even though it's in the vapid confines of *The Bachelorette*, it is still awesome to see many men vying for a black woman's attention and love. Yet it is telling about the state of the world that the producers, looking for ways to shake up the show, landed on "What if she was a black?"

Like using bad olive oil, it is offensive but not egregious. It suggests there's something incredibly wild and risky about dating a black woman. (I mean, there is, but that is because black women are incredible! Not because we are like feral animals in the outback.)

At the same time, finally.

This show has been on for 12 seasons! Black people have been around for much longer!

Although there have been black contestants on both *The Bachelor* and *Bachelorette*, Lindsay included, they've never been the ones doing the choosing. And since the show's inception in 2002, they

never got chose either.

Black women who are dating are statistically less likely to be picked. According to data from OkCupid founder Christian Rudder, men on the website find black women the least desirable group.

In a cover feature for *The Walrus*, Hadiya Roderique experimented with the idea by alternating her OkCupid



Bachelorette Rachel Lindsay. AP

profile between her actual pictures, pictures of a white woman, and a "whitened" version of herself. As a white woman, she got more messages than when she presented as herself, a black woman.

This jives with my own dating experience. The first time I quit Tinder was because the messages I received were hyper-sexualized and racialized. The former is part of the appeal of the app to some, but for me the combination just created a digitized version of the racist sexual harassment I experience in real life.

(I am back on again with some rules — e.g. if the other person says something even remotely racial, I hit that unmatch button faster than Usain Bolt sprints.)

For black women, the romantic fairy tale told by popular culture hasn't included us. That is why I will be watching *The Bachelorette* when Rachel Lindsay finds her Prince Harry.

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TAKING ISSUES

Put the phone away and open up to genuinely alternative facts

Marissa Stapley
Torstar News Service

In a world where facts and truth are becoming collateral damage, I've been speaking out even more than usual, and I'm not alone. There's an anger being awakened in all of us.

For me, that means having pointless arguments online with people I went to elementary school with and will probably never see again, and harsh, politically charged arguments with close family members.

None of this has been rewarding, and it certainly hasn't changed anything. But what will?

I realized recently that in order to find that out, I needed to shut down my computer, look away from my phone and turn to the place within which I've always sought knowledge and comfort: books.

Debate

In *I'm Right and You're an Idiot* (New Society, 272 pages, \$19.95) Canadian public relations guru turned author and activist James Hoggan writes: "In debate we assume we have the right answer, whereas dialogue assumes we all have pieces of the answer and can craft a solution together."

"Debate is combative and about winning, while dialogue is collaborative and focuses on exploring the common good. Debaters defend their assumptions and criticize the views of others, whereas in dialogue we reveal assumptions and examine all positions, including our own."

To that end, here's what I've been reading lately to find ways to constructively support what I already value and believe and to open my mind to the beliefs of others. Plus, I needed to find a way to stop shouting so much.

Liberalism

Listen, Liberal (Thomas Frank, Metropolitan Books, 320 pages, \$31.50) takes on the democratic elite. As Canada awakens to how very like the U.S. we may be, questioning liberal values with an eye to both defending them and improving them, as well as truly understanding what it means to be elitist, is an uncomfortable necessity.

Classism

So, what's the opposite of a member of the liberal elite? *Hillbilly Elegy* (J.D. Vance, Harper, 272 pages, \$34.99) has the answer to that. Vance was raised in the Rust Belt by a drug-addicted mother and then in the Appalachians by guardian grandparents who

struggled with alcoholism and violence.

They loved him fiercely. His story puts a face to the white underclass who have become so outspoken in today's political arena. There's a lot to grapple with in a book like this but it's a good place to start when trying to understand what's going on in communities you may not identify with — and it makes it clear that speaking out from within, in any community, is the only way forward.

Religion

Next, I read *Letters to a Young Muslim*, by Omar Saif Ghobash (Picador, 272 pages, \$31). This book is meant as a plea for moderation from an author who has clearly listened deeply and wants to speak the truth, gently and respectfully.

He's also writing to his sons, which ups the ante. No shouting allowed. Those arguing with the most fierceness — on both sides — about immigration bans and extremism may know nothing about what it means to be a Muslim or what Islam is. This is just a starting point, and a fine one at that.

Feminism

Now, on to feminism. I've been a feminist practically since I could speak in full sentences but never before have I felt on one hand so supported and on the other so opposed.

I've read plenty of books that support what I already think, but *Unfinished Business* by Anne Slaughter (Random House, 352 pages, \$32) reminded me that this word "equality" I keep using

might not mean what I think it does — and she bravely offers up a manifesto for true equality.

Why I Am Not A Feminist by Jessa Crispin (Melville House, 176 pages, \$33.99) comes from an author who has created an identity out of being a contrarian, true, but who also demands more of mainstream feminism than it's currently delivering. (She is indeed looking directly at all of us in our cute pink pussy hats.)

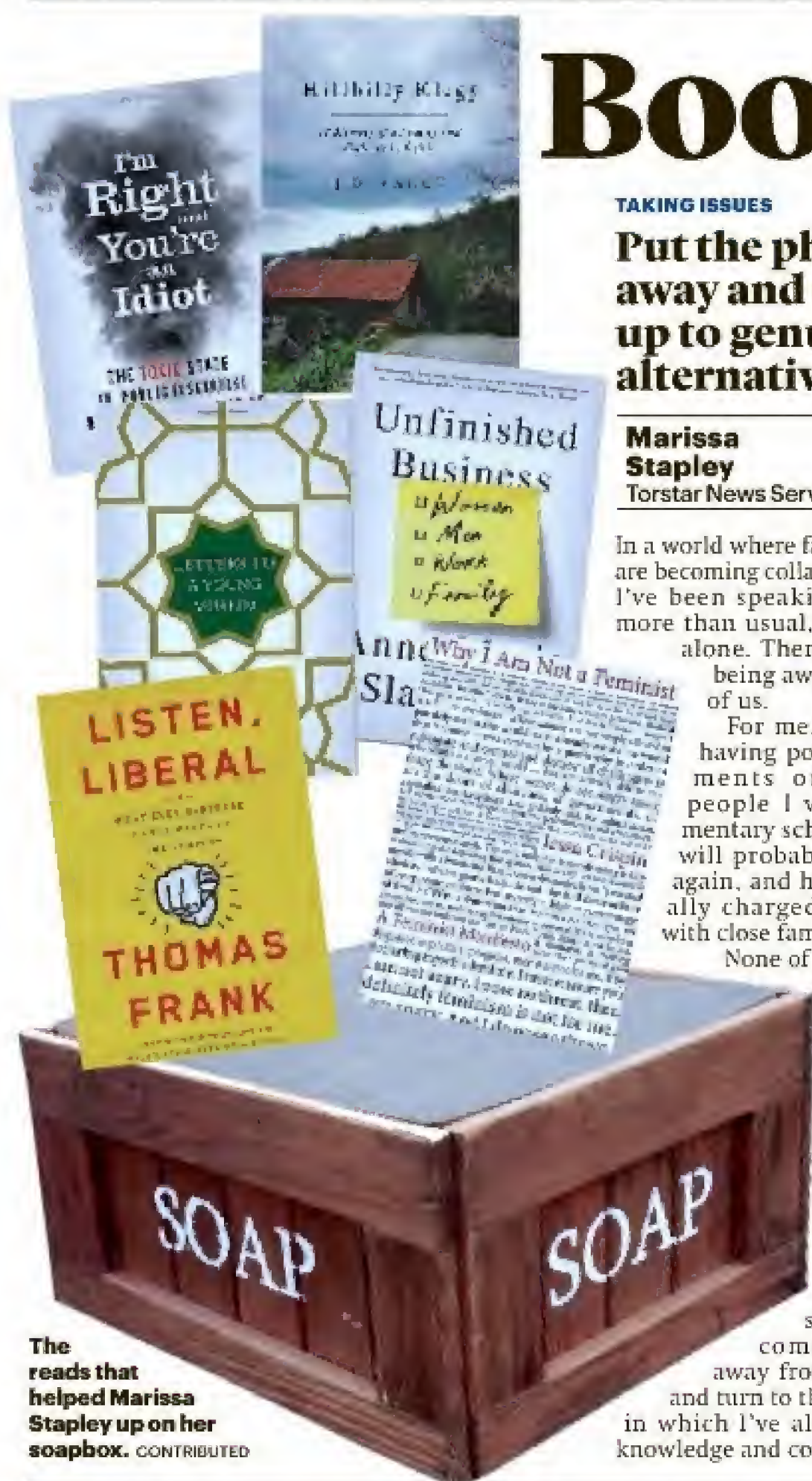
Conservatism

This is all just a beginning. I'm still searching — and late this week, my search led me to the Little Free Library on my street. And there it was, a battered volume called *Confessions of a Conservative*.

When I got it home, I realized it was written in 1979 by Pulitzer-Prize winning author Garry Wills. Wills is a Roman Catholic who has criticized the approach of the church to homosexuality, abortion and contraception. He once wrote an article for *The New York Review of Books* that took on the second amendment. He no longer calls himself a conservative, mostly because of his experiences covering the civil rights movement, for example — but also because the conservatives won't have him.

Wills was brave, both to stand for something and then to abandon it when listening to the other side led him to a new way of seeing. I'm planning to stay open to this, no matter where my current quest for balanced knowledge leads me.

Courage, as well as a stack of books, is imperative.



The reads that helped Marissa Stapley up on her soapbox. CONTRIBUTED

OBITUARY

Goodbye to the man who connected us

Stuart McLean, a bestselling author, journalist and humorist who was "firmly committed to celebrating the positive, joyful and funny side of life" through his popular CBC Radio program *The Vinyl Cafe*, has died. He was 68.

"Stuart was an exceptional storyteller who has left an indelible mark on CBC Radio and countless communities across Canada," read a statement from Susan Marjetti, executive director of radio and audio for CBC English Services.

In December, McLean an-

nounced he was suspending the long-running program to focus on treatment for melanoma, which he was diagnosed with in late 2015. He said his first round of immunotherapy treatment that winter was not completely successful and he needed to undergo another round this year.

The *Vinyl Cafe* radio show, which featured a mix of stories, essays and musical performances, was spun off into bestselling books and became a touring production in 2008. The show's stories centred on Dave, the owner of a secondhand

record store, and also featured Dave's wife, Morley, their two children, Sam and Stephanie.

"Every week for 22 years, Stuart connected with his listeners in a way that few before him have. His Dave and Morley stories were as entertaining as they were enlightening; they made us pause, reflect, but most of all laugh along together," said Marjetti.

A posting on the official *Vinyl Cafe* website said show staff were "finding comfort in memories of our dear friend."

"Stuart always emphasized

that the world is a good place, full of good people, trying to do their best. He believed in people's extraordinary capacity for love and generosity," the message reads.

"Stuart connected us — to our country and to each other. He entertained us, he made us think, he made us smile. Occasionally he made us cry. And, through all of that, he reminded us that life is made up of small moments. We never know which ones will be forgotten and which ones will stay with us forever."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Humorist, radio host and author Stuart McLean was an officer of the Order of Canada and a professor emeritus at Ryerson University in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Balancing where your money goes

DEBT MANAGEMENT

Student loan repayment, childcare costs and RRSP contributions: it is all possible

Liz Bruckner

In the quest for higher education, Farrah Hunter* has acquired a significant amount of debt. Approximately \$80,000 worth.

Having earned her undergraduate honours degree, masters degree, and graduate diploma, the 42-year-old teacher, and single parent of one, is currently working while completing her PhD, and is very open about her financial situation. "I'm not in a position to even think about paying off my debt or to start investing as I'm currently living hand to mouth," she says. "Caring for my child

is my biggest and only priority."

Tammie Williams knows the feeling. The 36-year-old married mother of one has managed to pay off her \$14,000 student debt since graduating with diplomas from both Durham and Seneca Colleges, but her husband's lingering OSAP loans coupled with child-related costs make getting ahead financially feel impossible. "We pay bills according to their due dates, spend more time with our child by working fewer days and longer hours, and choose to rent instead of buy. Our bills are paid and our daughter is happy, but there's very little cash left at the end of each month."

According to Michael Holmberg, a chartered accountant with Avarid Lindsay Holmberg LLP, while it's very common that young parents feel overwhelmed by dismal and often record-high post-secondary-education debt scenarios, there's always hope. "The first step I recommend is taking a good look at your required spending, versus the spending done on items that you can go without. It can be a challenge at first to

narrow things down, but eventually, people who get into the habit of creating these kinds of spending reports allow them to plan for bigger investments."

Giving yourself reasonable short- and long-term timelines to follow is wise, says Holmberg, as both can be effective and allow for progression in budget management. From there, setting up an automated weekly or monthly contribution to an RRSP or TFSA so you're 'paying yourself first' and not spending pointlessly is prudent.

When it comes to child-related costs, make a point of scaling back as much as possible. While paying for before- and/or after-school care is often unavoidable for working parents, splurging on the newest toys, gadgets, clothes, accessories, and activities is not. Enlist family and friends to help with childcare where possible, stick to providing the basics, eat out less frequently, and start checking local community or municipality websites to stay current on the free kids programs they offer. (Many organizations will waive or reduce registration



Giving yourself reasonable short- and long-term timelines is the best first step in budget management. ISTOCK

fees for kids whose parents volunteer or coach, so consider getting involved to save some money.)

Lastly, make a habit of monitoring your online banking accounts so you're aware of

your financial standing, and should you end up with extra cash throughout the year, use it to further your financial goals. "If your focus is to eliminate debt, put the funds toward that endeavour. If you want to earn

as much money as possible and you have a line of credit with six per cent interest but you can earn eight per cent on investment, that strategy can work, as well," says Holmberg. *Not subject's real name



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LEARN TO EMBRACE WINTER AT THE FORKS

Every winter Winnipeggers are faced with two distinct choices — stay inside and bitterly wait for spring or embrace the weather and enjoy the climate that's earned our city its Winter-Peg nickname.

From skating and tobogganing to snowboarding and now Crokicurl, The Forks makes the choice to welcome winter easy with a seemingly endless list of things to do in the great, albeit cold, outdoors.

The newest addition, Crokicurl (like the name suggests, a mash-up of curling and crokinole), sees players toss curling rocks to the centre of a giant ice crokinole board set up at The Forks site.

"The idea is a world's first," explains Chelsea Thomson, manager of marketing and communications with The Forks North Portage Partnership. "The concept was brought to us by Public City Architecture and we thought it was just too Manitoban not to try."

The Forks is also running its Après Skate promotion — a play on the après ski phenomenon encouraging skiers to socialize after a day on the slopes — with The Common offering 20 wines and 20 beers

(half from local brewers) on tap and staff ready to help pair the drink with whatever you might be craving from the food vendors.

"We don't have a ski hill here, but we do have a long river trail for people to skate on," says Thomson of the idea. "We want to invite skaters in after they're done on the trail to warm up and grab a bite to eat."

The Red River Mutual Trail, which extends from Queen Elizabeth Way on the Red River all the way to the Hugo Docks on the Assiniboine River, has added six new warming huts bringing the total to 15 this year, including a new submission from the U of M that's actually heated thanks to a functioning pellet stove.

And if your skating skills aren't quite sharp enough for the trail, The Forks is offering free skating lessons every Wednesday night. The event, called Buds + Suds, includes lessons for skaters of all abilities from Lindsay Somers starting at 8 p.m. at the Iceland Skate Rental in the Tower Atrium.

Go to theforks.com for more information on everything planned this winter.



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Housing amenities

Suites feature open floor plans with nine-foot ceilings and large windows, kitchens with dining bars and quartz countertops. Spacious covered balconies are set into the building to provide privacy.

Location and transit

Connect brings work and play together as downtown is 15 minutes west while Whiteshell Provincial Park is just an hour to the east. Two bus routes stop close by and separated bike paths provide active transportation options.



CONNECT CONDOS

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In the neighbourhood

A wealth of shops and services are available nearby in the Kildonan Place retail district, while Club Regent Casino has gaming and concerts. For golfers, the Transcona Golf Club is minutes down the road.

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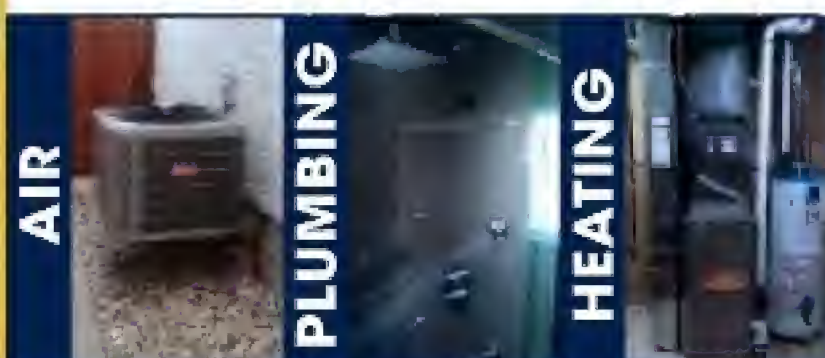
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The right steps to refinish stairways

HOME REPAIR

Contractors offer best tips on what can be a messy job

Stairs and stairways are often last on the list when it comes to home renovations, even though they are frequently the first thing you and everyone else sees upon opening the front door.

Although not prohibitively expensive, refurbishing stairs is a messy and skilled job beyond the reach of average DIYers. The basics, though, aren't hard to grasp and with a little help you can take the first steps to elevate your stairs.

Older homes, especially, will need stair repairs and upgrades, says Jordan Spear, a RenoMark contractor.

When it comes to restoring staircases, "the first thing is to look at the structure for safety," says Spear, who specializes in restoring century homes. "You want to make sure the treads aren't too worn and 'cupping,' and that the nosing is secure and that the railing is all secure and the components solid."

Refinishing and staining

First, assess the wood, says Chris Palmer, also a RenoMark contractor who was an industrial designer before appearing on TV shows such as Canada's Handyman Challenge, Income Property, Open House Overhaul and serving as Global TV's resident handyman expert.

Stairs made from good hardwood, such as oak or maple, are usually worth refinishing. Peel back a section of carpet or runner to check the wood. If it's low-grade pine or spruce (called "builder grade") then painting, capping or re-carpeting are the only options, says TV contractor Damon Bennett, another RenoMark contractor.

If you're lucky, you might need to just replace the most damaged treads. To refinish, remove the carpet and underpad, pull out all the staples, then fill and sand before painting or staining.

"You can't put water-based stains on oil-based stains, so make sure you get the right product," says Spear.

Capping

An alternative to re-carpeting is re-treading, or capping with new treads. Sometimes called false treads, they can sit on top of the existing ones. After that it's a matter of replacing or repainting the risers.

Re-treading involves knocking



A staircase in a Toronto home before renovations. The place had previously served as a rooming house. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

out the existing treads. Replacing them and capping aren't as easy as it sounds, warn the renovators.

Capping will also change the rise of the step and you'll be short at the top and high at the bottom. Even just a half-inch difference can cause a stumble. There are veneer tread options in the \$20-\$30 range but the ideal is solid wood, at \$30 and up, depending on the type of wood. Also, you'll either have to make your winders (the triangle-shaped larger treads that allow for a turn), or have them made.

To have a set of 14 stairs capped with red oak treads and risers, including three winders, (plus a corresponding new banister with new newels and spindles) will cost \$5,000-6,000 — or more, depending on where you are, who does the work and how much labour is required.

Painting

With worn or low-grade stairs, aside from re-carpeting or capping, the other option is painting.

As with staining, prep is everything. Pull out all the staples, fill in the holes then sand, sand and sand again. A shop-vac attachment for your sander will help, as will sealing the work area with plastic sheeting. Wear a dust mask and eye protection.

Check out the pro-level paint-

ing stores such as Dulux, Sherwin-Williams or Benjamin Moore for their special tread paint that's water based and designed to take foot traffic. If there's a previous oil-based stain or paint on the stairs, you'll need a bonding and transition coat of primer.

A good paint supplier can match the paint to the trim or to the wall. Painting the treads a dark colour and the trim and risers in white is a popular look.

Railings, carpet and rods

If you're re-carpeting because the wood isn't worth refinishing, consider upgrading the entire look with new railings.

Do you replace wood spindles with wrought-iron or vice versa? Esthetics aside, it's also a question of skill. Taking a railing apart can be tricky, notes Bennett.

"You can't cut them out if you want to use them again so you've really got to be careful," he says. "If you don't do it right, it will look off. It's really best to get someone in who has the experience and skill."

Stair runners are for both esthetics and firm footing, especially for kids and seniors.

Runners can be bought by the foot and installed. Or you can have carpet cut and the edges bound to create your own runner.

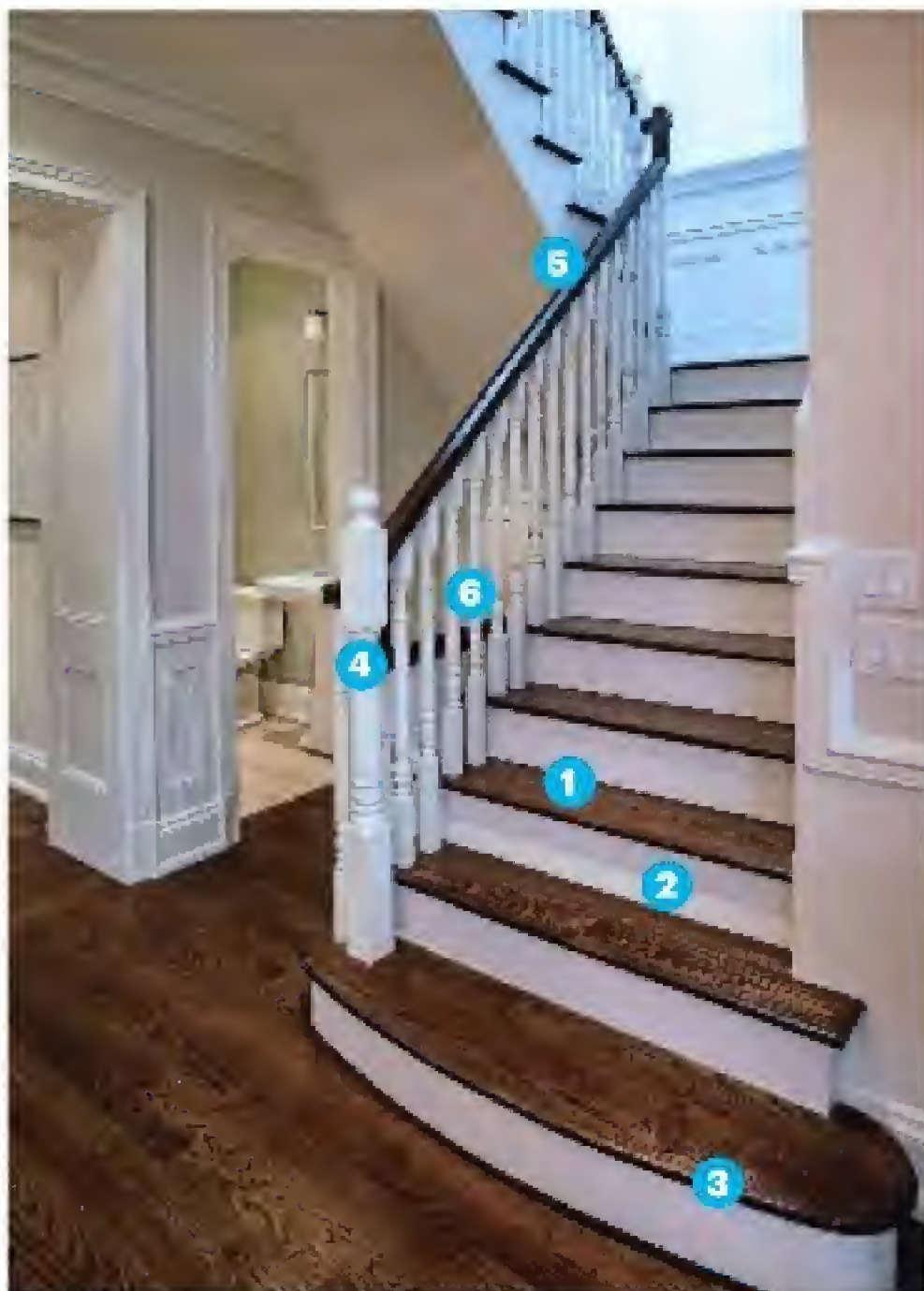
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANATOMY

What to call that spindly thing

Parts of a staircase, explained

- 1 Riser**
The vertical face between treads.
- 2 Tread**
The step part of a stairs.
- 3 Nosing**
The rounded part of the tread. Some stairs are flat with no nosing, also called a bull nose.
- 4 Newel post**
The vertical posts at the bottom and top of the stairs which the railings attach to.
- 5 Bannister**
Also called a handrail.
- 6 Spindles**
Also known as balustrades, they are the vertical pieces which make up the railing.



Using the right words makes communicating with hardware store staff and contractors easier. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ACTIVITY

Since 2006, more than 1500 families have made the move to SAGE CREEK, a trailblazing community that invites you to get outside and get active.

No matter the season or weather, Sage Creek is built for walking...plus running, biking, or even cross-country skiing! It's the perfect community for family fun or making a quick trip on foot to the grocery store.




EXPLORE SAGE CREEK

Learn more at sagecreek.ca

UNEXPECTED ENERGY

From the new stores, fitness centre and restaurants in the growing Village Centre to the new K-8 School well under construction, it's a community teeming with energy and life. With over 9 km of trails woven throughout with views of native prairie grasses, trees and wetlands, Sage Creek is ideal for those who enjoy the outdoors and an active lifestyle with all the amenities close by.

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Show Homes open 6 days a week. For hours and information, please visit sagecreek.ca




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NEXT MARKET DATE:
FEBRUARY 23

STARTS 10AM ENDS 3PM

FOR A LIST OF VENDORS VISIT DOWNTOWNWINNIPEGBIZ.COM






CONDO LIFE

In-demand heritage-block homes to open sales

Winnipeggers will have a special chance to buy a unique home in one of the city's most desirable areas starting next Thursday, Feb. 23.

District Condominiums' 139 Market will launch for sales, joining its sister developments — the completed and sold-out 132 James and 133 Market buildings, as well as the now-selling 110 James. Due to the rareness and exclusivity of each unit, the builder, StreetSide Developments, will be opening up sales to private appointments on a first-come, first-served basis.

Located in the heart of the East Exchange District, District 139 Market is the final building for sale in this development — offering a limited opportunity to land a coveted address in the trendy neighbourhood.

Each suite mixes the best of old and new,

honouring the building's century-old character with its beautiful exposed brick and original timber ceilings and beams, while incorporating brand new triple-pane windows, sleek, modern finishes and stainless steel kitchen appliances.

District 139 Market is made up of a total of 64 residential condominiums, featuring 30 floorplans, each with their own unique exposure and interior details. Studio, one- and two-bedroom designs range from 545 sq. ft. to over 1,000 sq. ft., starting from \$158,900 including GST.

You can find the perfect home to suit your needs and budget, from pocketbook-friendly studios to sixth-floor penthouse suites with adjoining private rooftop terraces.

The building is stacked with amenities, in-



CONTRIBUTED

cluding a well-equipped exercise room, stylish lounge area, storage lockers, and a communal rooftop terrace. Private rooftop patios are also available for purchase, with impressive views of the downtown skyline.

Available for summer possessions, District's 139 Market is an incredible opportunity to live in a walkable, urban neighbourhood, and enjoy the unbeatable warm months filled with back-to-back festivals and entertainment.

Year-round there is a flurry of activity, rich architecture and a palpable energy to the



CONTRIBUTED

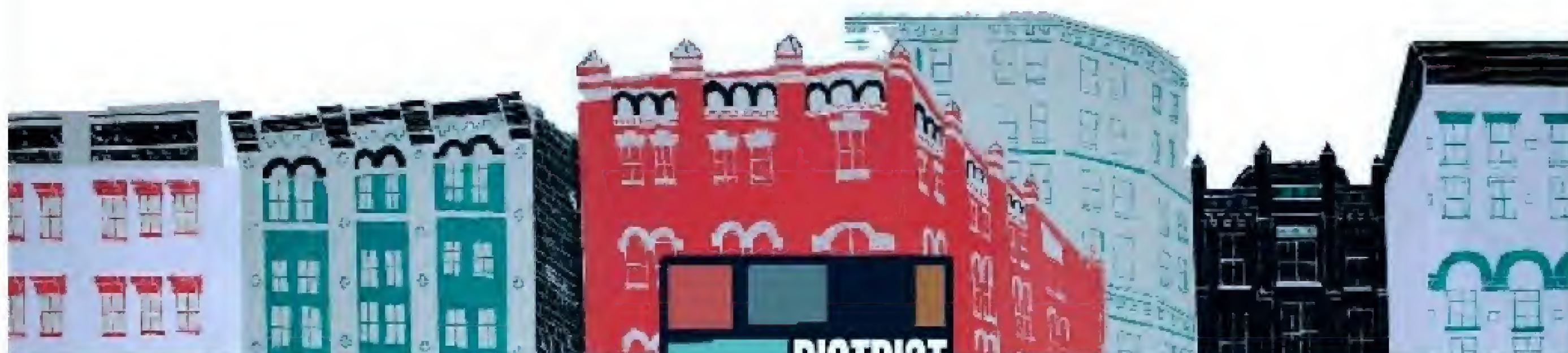
neighbourhood. No wonder it's a hub of local entrepreneurs, artists and creatives.

Starting Feb. 23, District 139 Market is accepting appointment bookings for those who have registered through the District Condos website. To ensure you are given the first opportunity to purchase a home at District's 139 Market, visit districtcondos.ca/register and sign up. Visit districtcondos.ca for more information, or contact Viktoria Fazekas (204-250-7711) or Michael Dublenski (204-981-4101) of RE/MAX Associates.

The wait is almost over. Coming soon to the Exchange District.

139 MARKET

Register now at districtcondos.ca to be notified of this highly anticipated launch.



AN ICONIC ADDITION TO THE WEST END

A new landmark is coming to the West End, one of the fastest growing areas of the city.

The Icon, a 60-unit collection of condos is now under construction at the former site of the legendary Palomino Club at 1133 Portage Avenue.

Its location, Winnipeg's West End, is both youthful and historic. Built in the early 20th century, it's home to more than 36,000 residents with a younger average age than any other area in Winnipeg.

Residents at The Icon will have everything they need at their fingertips, including 21 parks, 108 restaurants, recreational facilities and more than 1,000 businesses. Public transit is easily accessible from the development too, making the West End the place to be.

The Icon is built for everyone, with one-, two- and three-bedroom suites offering options for many different lifestyles.

"Some buyers are students attending Red River College or the university. We're getting seniors who've lived in the area for years and want to stay here as they downsize. Young professionals are coming here too — it's close to downtown, and it's a great

place for healthcare workers because of the two hospitals in the area," says Keith Merkel, president of EdgeCorp Group. "The Icon is a condo for someone who wants great access to the city without being right downtown."

Accessibility-focused suites are a unique addition to the offerings at The Icon and are designed to make life easier for residents with physical limitations. The development has eight accessible units in two-bedroom layouts with one or two bathrooms.

Special accessibility features include six feet of turning space in all rooms, doors with 36-inch openings, and interior plugs and switches that are all located at an accessible level. The millwork heights and appliances have been selected and installed to meet accessibility standards.

"We want to welcome people of all abilities to The Icon," Merkel says. "Our accessibility features make the building unique in that way."

To learn more about The Icon, contact David Carr (204-230-6129) or Martin Riazuddin (204-999-3433) at Monopoly Realty. The Icon sales centre will be opening on site in early March.



CONTRIBUTED

A Great West End location on Portage Avenue



WELCOME HOME

Join the transformation of a historic location by purchasing a condo at The Icon. Located at the corner of Portage and Minto — former location of the iconic Palomino Club — this exceptional new development is a perfect place for you to call home. Situated in close proximity to Wolseley, West Broadway, downtown and Polo Park, you will appreciate how easy it is to access by foot, bike, bus or car.

OBTAINABLE

Flexible down payment options are available through Crosstown Credit Union.

ACCESSIBLE LIVING

Eight accessible designed suites with two floor plans to choose from. All suites meet the City of Winnipeg Accessibility Standards.

AFFORDABLE LUXURY

With possession slated for fall 2017, this development will consist of 60 extremely affordable units with indoor and surface parking. Outstanding craftsmanship and luxury finishes that are built into the price of every condo. Choose from eight affordable suite layouts all offering 9' ceilings, clean and modern finishes, balconies, and energy efficient building systems.

THE ICON
1133 PORTAGE AVENUE

Take a closer look at your new home at
theicononportage.com

TOM BLUMBERG
DAVID CARR
MARTIN RIAZUDDIN
JIMMY WANG 王振强

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Calder trophy favourites

VIEW FROM THE 300S

Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson



As the NHL evolves into a faster, more skill-based league, rookies in the league are making major contributions to their teams and becoming impact players right out of the gate. This is not a new phenomenon, but it does seem that more rookies are becoming stars earlier and making Calder Memorial Trophy discussions that much more fun for hockey fans.

A year after the league welcomed a standout freshman class featuring Connor McDavid, Jack Eichel, Artemi Panarin, Dylan Larkin and Shayne Gostisbehere, the current crop of rookies are making similar breakouts this season.

Heading into the final quarter of the schedule, it's a perfect time to examine the odds for the Calder trophy for the NHL's top rookie.

AUSTON MATTHEWS Toronto

55 GP, 27 G, 19 A, 46 PTS
Odds: 1-2

Matthews, last year's first overall pick in the draft, has had an incredible rookie season and has played a huge role in the amazing turnaround of the Maple Leafs. A talented two-way centre, Matthews dropped jaws when he scored four goals in

his first NHL game, but has done so much more than just put up points. While playing in Toronto certainly doesn't hurt his chances, Matthews has been even better than advertised and deserves all the accolades he has earned this year.

PATRIK LAINE Winnipeg

51 GP, 26 G, 21 A, 47 PTS
Odds: 3-1

Just as Laine was selected second in the draft after Matthews, the two players will continue to be compared to each other throughout their careers. The 18-year-old Finnish winger is probably the purest scorer to enter the league since Alex Ovechkin and already may have the best shot-and-release in the NHL. A mid-season concussion cost him a few games but "the Finnisher" is back lighting the red light again and scored his league-leading third hat trick of the season on Tuesday. Laine could improve his Calder hopes with a few more goal-scoring outbursts like that and a strong final quarter of the season.

ZACH WERENSKI Columbus

55 GP, 8 G, 23 A, 31 PTS
Odds: 5-1

It's even harder for rookie defencemen to make an immediate impact in the NHL but Werenski has done exactly that. A huge part of the resurgence of the Blue Jackets, the University of Mich-



The Jets' Patrick Laine is among the league's top rookies with the likes of, from top, Auston Matthews, Zach Werenski, Mitch Marner and Matt Murray. ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

igan product leads all rookie defencers in scoring and is playing over 21 minutes a game for John Tortorella. Werenski will be a mainstay on the CBJ blue line for years and has a strong chance of becoming a Calder finalist this season.

MITCH MARNER Toronto

55 GP, 15 G, 33 A, 48 PTS
Odds: 5-1

Marner, the current rookie

scoring leader, probably deserves better odds than 5-1. The problem is that no matter how well he plays, his teammate Matthews will continue to get most of the headlines and likely Calder votes. While probably only the second best rookie on his own team, Marner's production and playmaking wizardry stands on its own, and he has proved he's certainly worthy of Calder consideration this year.

MATT MURRAY Pittsburgh

21 W, 2.27 GAA, .926 SV%
Odds: 8-1

Murray already has a Stanley Cup ring from last season but is still eligible for the Calder this year. Based on the numbers, the Pens No. 1 goalie should also probably have better odds at winning the award, but playing on a star-studded championship team likely decreases his chances of winning the Calder.

JETS

Sideshow galore on upcoming road trip

The Winnipeg Jets will be dealing with distractions as they embark on a four-game road trip that has the potential to make or break their season.

Winnipeg halted a four-game losing skid with Tuesday's 5-2 win over Dallas, a victory highlighted by rookie winger Patrik Laine's third hat trick of the season. Entering Wednesday's games, the Jets (26-29-4) were four points out of a wild-card spot in the Western Conference.

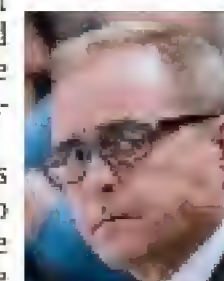
"There's probably two teams in the entire league that are really out of it," Jets head coach Paul Maurice said Wednesday as the team packed its bags. "Everybody else is right there so every single game becomes that playoff game."

Winnipeg's upcoming road contests will be played amid attention-grabbing storylines. First up is Thursday's game in Pittsburgh, where Penguins captain Sidney Crosby is on the verge of recording his 1,000th career point.

It's then on to Montreal for a Saturday matinee, the first game for the Canadiens under new head coach Claude Julien, who replaced Michel Therrien this week.

On Sunday night, the Jets will take on the Ottawa Senators before the trip wraps up with a rookie showcase Tuesday in Toronto. Laine and Maple Leafs forwards Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner will be featured.

"We've got too much on our plate right now to spend a whole lot of time talking about those things," Maurice said of the various storylines. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Paul Maurice
GETTY IMAGES

UFC

Lesnar retires from mixed martial arts

Former UFC heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar has informed the mixed martial arts promotion that he is retired from competition.

The UFC confirmed the former heavyweight champion's decision Wednesday.

Lesnar, 39, returned from a 4.5-year MMA absence last July to beat Mark Hunt at UFC 200, but the result was overturned after Lesnar failed two doping tests. He was subsequently suspended from competition for



Brock Lesnar GETTY IMAGES

a year by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which administers the UFC's doping policy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IN BRIEF

Real Madrid tops Napoli in first leg of matchup

Defending champion Real Madrid recovered after conceding a stunning early goal to beat Napoli 3-1 on Wednesday and stay on track for its seventh straight appearance in the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

Karim Benzema, Toni Kroos and Casemiro all scored for Madrid in the Round of 16 first-leg match at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Bayern in driver's seat after beatdown

Bayern Munich answered its critics with a comprehensive 5-1 rout of Arsenal in the first leg of their Champions League clash to put one foot in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Thiago Alcantara struck twice in a superb performance, while Arjen Robben, Robert Lewandowski and substitute Thomas

Mueller scored the other goals. Alexis Sanchez scored for Arsenal.



It's a very, very good position. It should do.

Bayern captain Philipp Lahm

The second leg of the Round of 16 matchup is on March 7.

Arsenal lost captain Laurent Koscielny to injury early in the second half, and

looks set to exit at the same stage for the seventh season in a row. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



STAYING HOME

The Jets will leave behind forward Andrew Copp, who suffered an upper-body injury against Dallas. Veteran defenceman Toby Enstrom (lower body) also remains at home.

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Creamy Caprese Skillet Chicken



PHOTO: MAYA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

A one-pot meal offering the classic flavours of sweet basil and tomatoes with creamy cheese.

Ready in minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 6 large boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 3/4 pound mini red, white and purple potatoes, halved or quartered if large
- 6-8 cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup bocconcini
- 8-10 basil leaves, roughly chopped

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400.
2. Rub the chicken thighs on both sides with olive oil and then generously season with salt and pepper.
3. Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken, cover and cook until it browns on one side, about 3 minutes. Turn the chicken; add the potatoes. Allow the chicken to cook another 3 minutes to brown then add the cherry tomatoes; transfer to oven and roast, uncovered, until chicken and potatoes are cooked, about 20 minutes.
4. Remove skillet from pan and toss in cheese and garnish with basil.

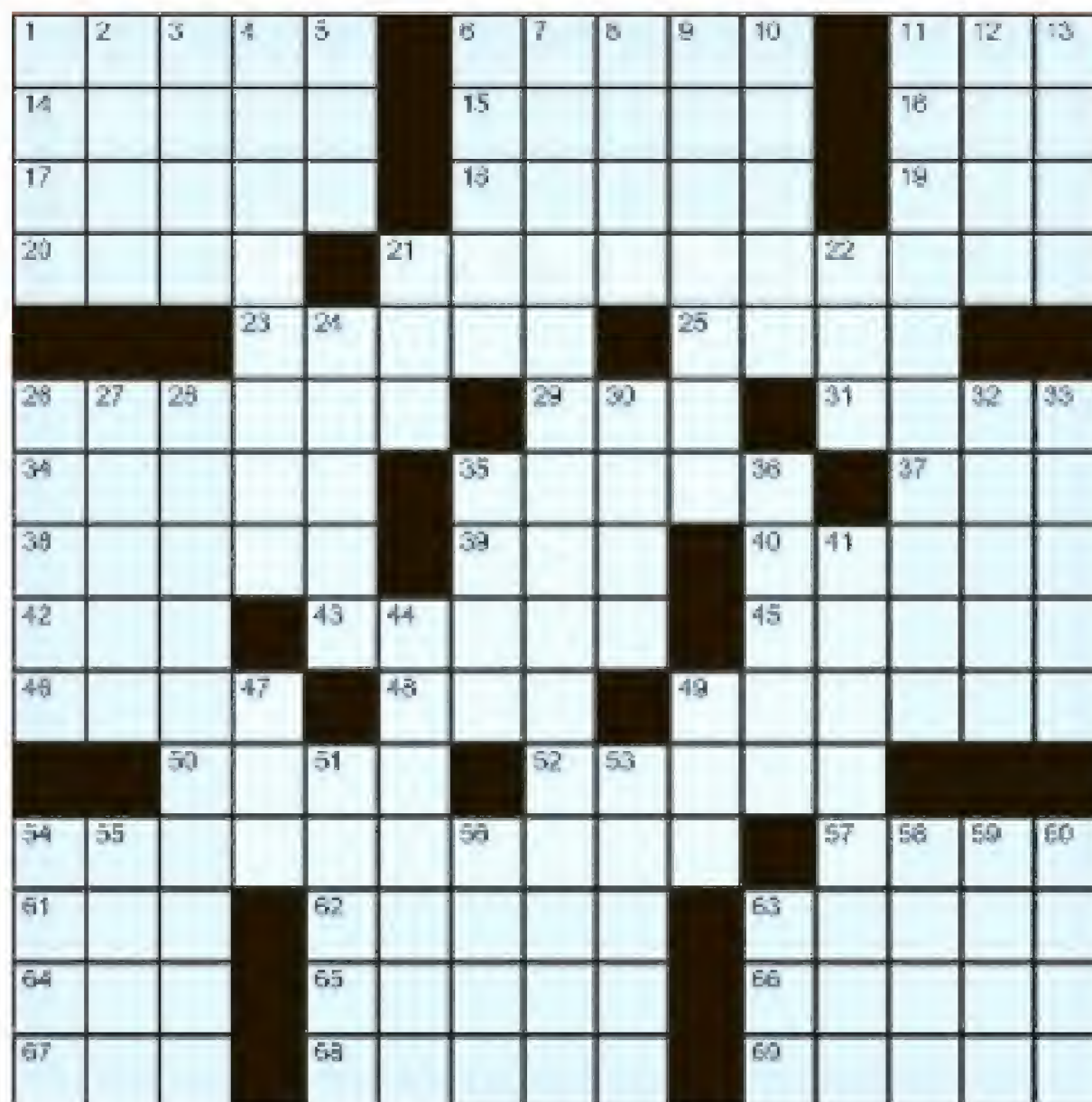
FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT
SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Movie
6. "The table ___" (Helpful dinner-time comment)
11. Tree's fluid
14. Pliant/agile
15. Put ___ (Get working)
16. Make the score even
17. "___ Which Way But Loose" (1978)
18. West: French
19. Pro golfer Ernie
20. Half, in Hull
21. Most like bread's famous spread
23. Strip of mown lawn
25. Table salt, chemistry-style
26. Indifference
29. The Beeb
31. Mr. Kristoferson
34. "The Godfather" (1972) syndicate
35. Herd-heralded
37. Rascalion
38. More likely to
39. Not in fashion
40. Adversary
42. Mystery novelist Ms. Grafton
43. People from Helsinki's country
45. ___-3 fatty acid
46. Baby Atlantic Herring, for short
48. "Sure" sign
49. Nova Scotia's provincial bird
50. Big bathing basins
52. Trunk
54. Daytime TV



- dramas: 2 wds.
57. Young sheep
61. Sneeze starters...
62. ___ Manner (1861 novel)
63. Jewel
64. Meet for a meeting
65. Elliptical path

66. Etruria's environs
67. Horticulturist's implement
68. Financial resources
69. Fathers: French

DOWN

1. Escaped
2. 1995: "Lightning Crashes" band
3. Detail
4. Modelling legend Ms. Brinkley
5. Important
6. "We Can Work ___" by The

- Beatles
7. 1971 song by #1-Down: 2 wds.
8. Tallow source
9. Gist
10. Bright pet fish
11. Canadian band with the hit "Ten Pound Note", as well as #7-Down:

- 2 wds.
12. Is feeling poorly
13. Nuisance
21. James or Hudson
22. "Eeew!"
24. Dock
26. Stockpile
27. ___ New Guinea
28. Leftover flavour
30. C-3PO, et al.
32. Effigy
33. Flare
35. Uni
36. Smelt-ery waste
41. Discourteous
44. Motivate in a way
47. Clone or copy, curtly
49. Alternative words
51. Tom Hanks sitcom, "___ Bud-dies"
53. Brewery kilns
54. Belt alternative
55. 2004: "___ Is for Lovers" by Hawthorne Heights
56. British actor Idris
58. Slightly open
59. Sort of spy
60. Purchases
63. Marcel Marceau's clown

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Talk to groups or classes today, especially with younger people. This also is a good day to do some goal setting for the future.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You are mentally energetic today, which is why you will make a good impression talking to bosses, parents and VIPs. Don't hesitate to share your ideas.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It is easy to study today or learn anything new. You also will love to make travel plans and have discussions about philosophy, religion, politics and metaphysics.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a good day to discuss shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. You have the mental energy to plow through a lot of red-tape details.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Discussions with partners and close friends will be lively and dynamic today. Everyone is full of bright ideas, and of course, you are quick to see the bottom line and grasp the big picture.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This will be a productive day at work because you can communicate well with others. In addition, you have the energy to work with your hands and accomplish something.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are creative today. Get busy working in the arts, the entertainment world, the hospitality industry or anything to do with sports or children.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is an excellent day to tackle home repairs. It's also a great day for family discussions, because you have a desire to communicate.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Writers, salespeople, actors and teachers are empowered today. You are keen to communicate and you have great ideas. This is because your mental energy is strong.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You're full of moneymaking ideas today. It's a good idea to write them down in case you want to act on one of them later. (It's not every day that we have bright ideas.)

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Mercury is in your sign now, which is why you are so keen to communicate to others. You have ideas and dreams, and you want to enlighten others by sharing these ideas.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Research of any kind will go well today, because you have the motivation, stamina and the attention to detail that is needed.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

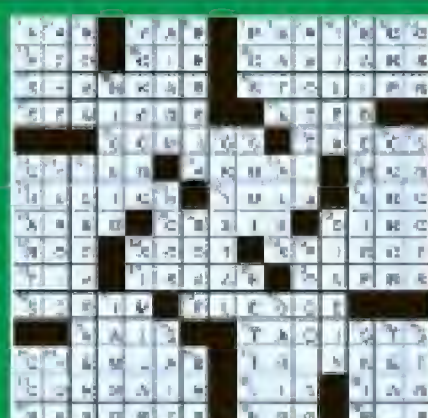
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to
metronews.ca/games



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